

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0946

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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SUBJ: CUNHAL RETURNS FROM MOSCOW

REF: (A) LISBON 4673 (NOTAL); (B) LISBON 4736

SUMMARY: ALVARO CUNHAL HAS RETURNED FROM MISSION TO MOSCOW
WITH REPORT OF FAVORABLE RECEPTION BY SOVIETS AND OPEN
HORIZONS FOR LUSO-SOVIET TRADE. CUNHAL'S REMARKS AND TEXT
OF OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE LEAVE A PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT SOVIET
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COMMITMENT TO BE FORTHCOMING. LACK OF SPECIFICS, HOWEVER,

AND CUNHAL'S COMMENT THAT "ALL DEPENDS ON US" SUGGEST THAT SOVIETS MAY NOT BE PREPARED TO GIVE PORTUGUESE ALL THEY WANTED. FURTHER PORTUGUESE-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS WILL FOLLOW. IN MEANTIME, CUNHAL'S RETURN TO LISBON SHARED EQUAL TIME IN PRESS WITH RETURN OF ECONOMICS MINISTER FROM EFTA HELSINKI CONFERENCE, WHERE PORTUGAL PICKED UP SIMILAR WELCOME, IF GENERAL, EXPRESSIONS OF EUROPEAN INTEREST IN PROVIDING ECONOMIC SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. ALVARO CUNHAL, HEAD OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, RETURNED NOVEMBER 3 FROM MISSION TO MOSCOW (REF A) WHICH HE HEADED. IN LISBON AIRPORT STATEMENT HE STRESSED THAT PORTUGUESE DELEGATION WAS "RECEIVED MAGNIFICENTLY" AND THAT FRUITFUL TRADE PROSPECTS EXISTED FOR FUTURE. HOWEVER, HE BROUGHT BACK NO SPECIFIC DEALS, AS "WE WENT IN ORDER TO EXAMINE PROSPECTS, NOT TO NEGOTIATE".

2. IN SETTING FORTH IDEA OF FUTURE EXPANDED TRADE OPPORTUNITIES, CUNHAL PLACED BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS EXPANSION ON PORTUGUESE THEMSELVES: "EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON US". FIRST MUST COME THE JURIDICAL BASIS FOR TRADE EXPANSION, THEN SPECIFIC DEALS CAN BE WORKED OUT. PRESSED BY JOURNALISTS TO STATE WHETHER OR NOT HE FELT SUCH DEALS COULD BE WORKED OUT BEFORE YEAR'S END, CUNHAL SAID YES. WHILE THE OFFICIAL SOVIET-PORTUGUESE COMMUNIQUE SPOKE ONLY OF A (SECOND) PORTUGUESE DELEGATION VISITING MOSCOW IN NOVEMBER, CUNHAL SUGGESTED THAT MULTIPLE DELEGATIONS WOULD EVENTUALLY TRAVEL FROM BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO CONCLUSION, BE DECEMBER, OF COMMERCIAL ACCORD GOVERNING TWO COUNTRIES' TRADE RELATIONS. COMMUNIQUE ALSO REFERS TO PLANS FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, TO BE PREPARED BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IN EACH. PORTUGUESE DELEGATION EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TRADITIONAL PORTUGUESE EXPORTS (WINE, ALMONDS, CORK) WOULD FIND MARKET IN SOVIET UNION; SOVIETS AGREED TO CONSIDER THIS WISH "POSITIVELY".

4. EXTENSIVE PORTUGUESE-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING CULTURAL MATTERS, TOUCHED ON GENERALLY IN COMMUNIQUE'S PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH, MAY BE REASON FOR DELAYED MOSCOW DEPARTURE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECSTATE FOR INFORMATION CONCEICAO E SILVA, NOW DUE TO RETURN TO LISBON AT WEEK'S END.

5. COMMENT: DID CUNHAL GET FROM THE SOVIETS EVERYTHING THE PORTUGUESE WANTED? WHILE COMMUNIQUE SPOKE OF DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, PLUS EXPANDED COMMERCE, CUNHAL'S COMMENTS TO PORTUGUESE PRESS WERE NOTE-WORTHY MAINLY FOR THEIR GUARDED NATURE. SOVIETS SHOWED

"GOOD WILL"; BEYOND THIS, CUNHAL OFFERED GENERALITY THAT SOVIETS STAND READY TO BUY PORTUGUESE PRODUCTS NOT CURRENTLY BEING WIDELY EXPORTED. LISBON PRESS PICKED UP CUNHAL COMMENT ON SOVIET TV THAT SOVIETS RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO "ALMOST" ALL OF GOP DELEGATION'S REQUEST AND SPECULATED THIS REFERRED TO SOVIET INABILITY TO FURNISH PORTUGAL WITH NEEDED CEREAL GRAINS. FURTHER LUSO-SOVIET TALKS MAY PRODUCE CONCRETE SOVIET AID OFFERS. BUT IF FOR MOMENT CUNHAL'S MOSCOW MISSION HAS PRODUCED NO SPECTACULAR RESULTS, IT DOES NOT DIFFER IN THIS RESPECT FROM OTHER MISSIONS BY GOP LEADERS HOLDING TALKS WITH EUROPEAN OFFICIALS. EFTA HELSINKI CONFERENCE, ATTENDED BY ECONOMICS MINISTER RUI VILAR, ALSO PRODUCED GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN AIDING PORTUGAL. VILAR'S STATEMENTS ON RETURN TO LISBON, WHICH PRESS COVERED IN SIMILARLY PROMINENT FASHION, REFERRED TO EFTA'S INTENT TO UNDERTAKE URGENT STUDY FOR WAYS TO EXPAND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH PORTUGAL. VILAR EXPECTS TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF PORTUGUESE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DURING MID-MONTH MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS. IN SUM, AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS GOP CONTINUES TO LOOK ABOUT WIDELY FOR OFFERS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, EMPHASIZING (BOTH TO DOMESTIC PUBLIC AND PERHAPS FOR US BENEFIT) THAT POST-APRIL 25 REGIME ENJOYS NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDING AND WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS.

6. ONE FURTHER OPTION, RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD, DISCUSSED IN NOVEMBER 1 EDITORIAL IN WEEKLY, PRESTIGIOUS EXPRESSO (REF B). SCOTT

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